

Message Text

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PAGE 01 SEOUL 07885 060352Z
ACTION EA-12

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R 090324Z SEP 78
FM AMEMBASSY SEOUL
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3307

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: CASC, BDIS, KS, US
SUBJ: DIPLOMATIC NOTE ON PROPER HANDLING OF TRADE DISPUTES

REF: STATE 222105

1. CONSUL GENERAL DELIVERED NOTE TO MOFA SEPTEMBER 5. IN DISCUSSION WITH DIRECTOR OF CONSULAR BUREAU, CONSUL GENERAL STATED THAT IF SAHEKI-TYPE INCIDENT WERE REPEATED, THE USG WOULD PROBABLY BE FORCED TO ISSUE WARNING TO ALL AMERICAN BUSINESSMEN ABOUT RISKS OF COMING TO KOREA IF THEY HAVE TRADE DISUPUTE, WITH THE RESULTING EFFECT ON KOREAN-AMERICAN TRADE AND GOODWILL. MOFA DIRECTOR FULLY UNDERSTOOD THE PROBLEM AND CONSEQUENCES. HE WILL SEE THAT MINISTRY OF JUSTICE AND OTHER CONCERNED ROKG AGENCIES ARE INFORMED OF THE NOTE. HE DID MENTION THAT THERE WAS A REAL PROBLEM IN THAT WHEN A CHARGE OF FRAUD IS MADE, IT IS DIFFICULT FOR THE POLICE TO IGNORE IT, BUT THAT NOW THERE HAS BEEN SOME EXPERIENCE IN SUCH MATTERS THANKS TO SAHEKI, AND HOPEFULLY SIMILAR INCIDENTS COULD BE QUICKLY PUT TO REST.

2. EMBASSY THINKS THAT WHILE THERE CAN BE NO ABSOLUTE ASSURANCE THAT PRIVATE KOREAN FIRMS WILL NOT TRY THE FRAUD ACCUSATION ROUTE AGAIN TO BRING PRESSURE FOR FAVORABLE BUSINESS SETTLEMENTS, THE ROKG IS MORE AWARE
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OF THE REPERCUSSIONS AND THAT EMBASSY REPRESENTATIONS WILL BRING SPEEDIER RESOLUTION. IT SHOULD BE NOTED THAT SAHEKI AND BENEFELD CASES ARE STILL ATYPICAL. THESE ARE THE ONLY SUCH CASES THAT HAVE COME TO THE ATTENTION OF THE EMBASSY IN THE LAST SEVERAL YEARS.

3. EMBASSY HAS NO OBJECTION TO CONGRESSMAN DUNCAN

BEING GIVEN COPY OUR NOTE. HOWEVER, WE SUGGEST NO
PUBLICITY BE MADE OF IT, AS THAT WOULD SERVE NO
PURPOSE AND POSSIBLY GET THE ROKG'S BACK UP.
GLEYSTEN

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